

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za). To join the bulletin mailing list, send an email to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

NEWS FROM THE SARL NEWS TEAM

DAYTON HAMVENTION CANCELS 2021 SHOW

and

NEW DIGITAL PROTOCOL Q65

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

NEWS FROM THE SARL NEWS TEAM

The News Team thanks Jan Kramer, ZS6JRK for his service as Afrikaans News recorder the past number of years. Jan has resigned from the team.

The News Team comprises of 2 bulletin compilers who write the English and Afrikaans bulletins with 3 English proof readers and 2 Afrikaans proof readers. There are 4 English bulletin recorders and 2 Afrikaans bulletin recorders.

It would be ideal if there was a third bulletin compiler, another Afrikaans proof reader and 2 more Afrikaans bulletin recorders. Contact Dennis, ZS4BS at [zs4bs@netactive.co.za](mailto:zs4bs@netactive.co.za) if you are willing to join the team.

THE SARL WEDNESDAY 80 M CLUB SPRINT ON 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

The first leg of the Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint takes place from 17:30 to 18:30 UTC (19:30 to 20:30 CAT) Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January with phone and CW activity. The exchange is a RS or RST report, your Club name and your 4-character grid square (e.g., KG30). You score 2 points for each QSO, 2 points for each new grid square worked and 1 point for each new Club worked. Submit your log by 23:59 CAT on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January to [zs4bfn@mweb.co.za](mailto:zs4bfn@mweb.co.za). Please note that the time and the exchange have been altered. Turn to page 63 of the 2021 SARL Blue Book for all the information.

Clubs hosting contests are reminded to advertise your contest by submitting a news item to SARL News for 1 to 2 Sundays before the contest.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

#### DAYTON HAMVENTION CANCELS THE 2021 SHOW

Dayton Hamvention® has been cancelled for the second year. "Unfortunately, several setbacks in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic make necessary the difficult decision to cancel Hamvention 2021," a 11<sup>th</sup> January announcement from the Hamvention Executive Committee said. Sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA), Hamvention was set to take place from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May in Xenia, Ohio.

"Hundreds of volunteers have been working to do everything necessary to bring this Hamvention to the many amateur radio enthusiasts and vendors who support the Dayton Hamvention," the committee continued. "Vaccine distribution both in the United States and around the world is lagging behind what was planned. In addition, the emergence of a more communicable form of the COVID-19 virus increases the potential for further public health problems in the next few months. We make this difficult decision for the safety of our guests and vendors." Tickets deferred last year will be deferred again until 2022.

The Hamvention Committee hinted at a QSO party for Hamvention weekend. In November, Hamvention had announced that "The Gathering" would be the theme for the 2021 show.

Hamvention is the largest annual amateur radio gathering in the US and was the host of the ARRL National Convention for its last event, held in 2019.

#### WSJT-X 2.4.0 TO INTRODUCE NEW DIGITAL PROTOCOL Q65

WSJT-X version 2.4.0 will introduce a new digital protocol called Q65, which, according to the Quick Start Guide, is designed for "minimal two-way QSOs over especially difficult propagation paths." The Guide said, "On paths with Doppler spread more than a few hertz, the weak-signal performance of Q65 is the best among all WSJT-X modes. Q65 is particularly effective for tropospheric scatter, ionospheric scatter, and EME on VHF and higher bands, as well as other types of fast-fading signals."

The new protocol uses 65-tone frequency-shift keying and builds on the demonstrated weak-signal strengths of QRA64, introduced in 2016. User messages and sequencing are identical to those in FT4, FT8, FST4 and MSK144. Q65 employs a "unique tone" to sync time and frequency. "As with JT65, this 'sync tone' is readily visible on the waterfall spectral display," the Guide said.

"Unlike JT65, synchronization and decoding are effective even when meteor pings or other short signal enhancements are present. Transmit/receive sequence lengths of 15, 30, 60, 120 and 300 seconds are available. According to the Guide, "Q65 will enable stations with a modest Yagi and 100 W or more to work one

another on 6 meters at distances up to ~1,600 kilometres at most times, in dead-band conditions.”

#### PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently no sunspot regions visible. No solar flaring is expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around nine. The 15 to 30 m bands will provide some DX fun. Please visit the website [spaceweather.sansa.org.za](http://spaceweather.sansa.org.za) for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – the PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest

19<sup>th</sup> January – The PEARS and Border ARC meetings

20<sup>th</sup> January – The SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint

23<sup>rd</sup> January – The Summer QRP Sprint; Propagation Summit 2021 and the CTARC and Highway ARC meetings

23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January – The BARTG RTTY Sprint

26<sup>th</sup> January – The Secunda ARC meeting

27<sup>th</sup> January – the Provincial Schools open (or 15 February)

31<sup>st</sup> January - Closing date for AGM motions and nominations for SARL Awards and Council

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The News Team thanks Jan Kramer, ZS6JRK for his service as Afrikaans News recorder the past number of years. Jan has resigned from the team.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of

Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by email to [artoday@sarl.org.za](mailto:artoday@sarl.org.za).

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS/6, edited by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.